

March 15, 2007

Sarah Simpson, JD  
Program Manager, Regulatory Affairs  
Indiana State Department of Agriculture  
101 West Ohio Street, Suite 1200  
Indianapolis, Indiana 46204

Dear Ms. Simpson:

Thank you for the invitation to be considered for the technical advisory team to the Indiana Land Resources Council. I trust our previous working relationship between Indiana State Department of Agriculture and Indiana Farm Bureau has proven to be a successful business enterprise. With agriculture and livestock issues on the rise for Director Miller and President Villwock, I believe the time is critical to face the issue directly.

I still have a high passion for land use planning; particularly when it involves agricultural practices and rural housing. Being raised on a family farm gave me the practical knowledge of the livelihood. By attaining the foundation of planning and zoning from Ball State University and applying this knowledge in rural counties in Indiana, I feel I have a better sense of what is going on in Indiana and where some of the stumbling blocks are.

With my work at Indiana Farm Bureau as their Land Use Specialist, I was exposed to many counties in Indiana. I had opportunities to review, critic, and draft ordinances for counties as they updated the documents. I had exposure to state, local and national officials. I was able to testify to the Indiana House and Senate on various bills as a legislative and executive lobbyist.

Currently, I am individually working with counties to personally rewrite their comprehensive plans and zoning ordinances to better accommodate the rural needs. So as you can see, I have taken this issue full circle—being raised on a farm, gaining education in planning, working as plan director for counties, serving as a land use specialist for the state and now implementing the working plans for counties.

The current phase of my circle has proven to be the most difficult of all. However, this has rejuvenated my desire to use land use planning and GIS technology to better serve the counties and assist them in making the next step to reduce future conflicts.

I will be in touch with you in the next week to discuss any further information you may need to assist in the decision-making process for this panel. Feel free to contact me by email or cell phone if you need anything at anytime.

Sincerely,

Brad Buening

### Qualifications:

Understand the importance of value-added agriculture;

Secretary of IBE, Indiana Bio-Energy – initial concept of ethanol or soy diesel. Obtained initial by-in from small local group, established board, became secretary, secured consultants for every facet possible, secured financing, established a TIF district and landed a 100 Million gallon per year ethanol plant in Bluffton, Indiana;

Raised on a family farm;

Worked on a large-scale swine operation to pay for my college education;

Understand the need and am implementing the concept for multiple agricultural zoning districts;

Worked as a plan director in rural counties in Indiana, over 15 years experience;

Have worked with local health departments with septic system siting;

Have worked with IDEM on the CFO/CAFO regulations;

Worked at Indiana Farm Bureau as Land Use Specialist;

Have attended and participated in TMDL meetings across the state;

Have applied for and received twice, IDEM Section 319 Grant for a total of \$450,000.00 – non-point source pollution;

Have researched from other states the health ramifications of working in or living near livestock operations;

I am currently the economic development director for Ripley County and the lead person for my county with the AEDI in the Southeast Region, which deals directly with agricultural economics;

Graduated from the Purdue Leadership Development Institute, this helped build my skills for dealing with public and facilitating meetings;

As plan director, I reviewed plans for transportation needs, storm water issues, drainage, comprehensive planning and zoning;

I have created point systems for counties to help guide them in decision-making – creating objective decisions versus subjective and emotional.

# Bradley D. Buening

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## **Education:**

- Ball State University—graduated May 1991
- Bachelor in Urban and City Planning
- Bachelor in Environmental Design
- Minor in Energy Resources
- Concentration in Economics

## **Experience:**

- Ripley County Economic Development, Executive Director Oct. 2006 to present
  - Handled acquisition of land
  - Promoted City, County and 6 towns
- Indiana Farm Bureau, Inc., Land Use Specialist Jan. 2006 to Oct. 2006
  - Training on local governmental process
  - Presentations to local government bodies
- Wells County Area Plan, Planning Dir/GIS Mgr July 2000 to Dec. 2006
  - Performed all planning functions
  - Maintained GIS project
- Huntington County, GIS Manager August 1999 to July 2000
  - Contract negotiations
  - Quality control
- Wells County Area Plan, Planning Director March 1997 to August 1999
  - Performed all planning functions
  - Code enforcement
- Decatur County Area Plan, Plan Dir/Bldg. Comm. Dec. 1993 to March 1997
  - Performed all building inspections
  - Performed all planning functions
- Columbus/Bartholomew Plan Dept., Planning Technician May 1991 to Dec. 1993
  - Performed planning duties
  - Prepared staff reports

## **Other areas of interests:**

- Certified in various levels of GIS software
- GIS speaker at 3 state conference in 2000 and URISA, Chicago Fall 2002
- IGIC Board of Directors, Chairman of Legislative Committee
- Indiana Bio-Energy Board of Directors, Secretary
- Decatur County Redevelopment Commission, Secretary
- Batesville Redevelopment Commission
- Ripley County/Batesville Chamber of Commerce

References

For

Brad Buening

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